

High Risk Non-sexual Behaviors in Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Adolescents

The 2005 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey shows that adolescents who identify themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual report a significantly higher incidence of many risky behaviors than do adolescents who identify as heterosexual. These results are highlighted below.

2005 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Reported Behavior	Percent of students who have:		
	engaged in same sex sexual intercourse n=241*	engaged in opposite sex sexual intercourse n=2944*	not had sex n=6022*
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
Safety belt use (never, rarely, or sometimes wear)	45% (37.6-52.0)	29% (23.7-35.4)	9% (7.0-12.4)
Vomited or took laxatives to control their weight (during the past 30 days)	33% (25.5-40.5)	7% (5.8-8.2)	2% (2.0-2.8)
Skipped school because of feeling unsafe on route to or at school (during past 30 days)	27% (20.2-34.8)	7% (5.3-8.3)	2% (1.9-3.3)
Threatened or injured with a weapon at school (during the past 12 months)	35% (25.8-45.0)	9% (7.7-10.9)	4% (3.1-4.3)
Was bullied** (during past 30 days)	41% (35.0-47.1)	16% (13.9-17.6)	18% (15.6-19.7)
Physical fighting (during past 12 months)	56% (47.7-64.6)	37% (34.3-40.3)	20% (18.1-23.0)
Smoked cigarettes (during past 30 days)	64% (55.5-70.7)	34% (28.3-39.4)	5% (3.4-7.0)
Binge drinking (during past 30 days)	60% (48.1-70.7)	42% (37.4-46.1)	9% (7.8-11.1)
Marijuana use (during past 30 days)	67% (55.2-77.7)	43% (37.6-47.7)	9% (7.1-12.0)
Inhalant use (during lifetime)	56% (48.2-62.8)	20% (16.7-23.7)	6% (5.5-7.6)
Cocaine use (during past 30 days)	41% (27.7-55.1)	8% (5.8-9.8)	<1% (0.4-0.8)
Heroin use (during lifetime)	36% (24.8-47.9)	5% (4.0-6.4)	<1% (0.1-0.6)
Injected drugs (during lifetime)	32% (22.2-42.7)	4% (3.4-5.5)	<1% (0.1-0.4)
Attempted suicide (during past 12 months)	42.0% (33.9-50.6)	9% (7.8-11.2)	3% (2.8-3.5)

*unweighted N.

**Bullying was defined as occurring when, on many occasions, a student or group of students say or do unpleasant things to another student to make fun of, tease, embarrass, or scare him/her; or purposefully exclude him/her. Bullying can occur before, during, or after the school day; on school property, a school bus, or at a school-sponsored activity. It is not bullying when two students of about the same strength and power argue or fight or when teasing is done in a friendly way.

2005 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Students who describe themselves:				
Reported Behavior	hetero- sexual (n=8547)*	gay or lesbian (n=91)*	bisexual (n=298)*	not sure (n=278)*
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
Safety belt use (never, rarely, or sometimes wear)	16% (12.1-21.2)	36% (23.2-52.0)	31% (23.2-39.9)	25% (18.9-32.4)
Vomited or took laxatives to control their weight (during the past 30 days)	4% (3.4-4.4)	20% (12.5-31.7)	16% (10.8-24.1)	15% (10.2-20.4)
Skipped school because of feeling unsafe on route to or at school (during past 30 days)	4% (3.0-4.8)	17% (9.8-27.2)	12% (9.6-14.4)	16% (11.6-20.8)
Threatened or injured with a weapon at school (during the past 12 months)	6% (4.7-6.3)	25% (17.4-34.9)	17% (12.1-23.7)	18% (13.1-23.3)
Was bullied** (during past 30 days)	17% (15.3-18.2)	43% (36.1-50.8)	31% (26.1-36.0)	27% (21.3-33.1)
Physical fighting (during past 12 months)	26% (23.6-29.0)	44% (31.5-56.7)	42% (34.4-50.2)	34% (28.7-39.0)
Smoked cigarettes (during past 30 days)	15% (11.2-19.1)	42% (30.2-54.1)	43% (37.0-49.5)	23% (16.5-30.4)
Binge drinking (during past 30 days)	21% (18.4-23.6)	37% (24.8-50.6)	36% (31.3-41.7)	22% (17.8-27.4)
Marijuana use (during past 30 days)	21% (18.2-24.1)	36% (22.9-52.5)	45% (40.7-49.9)	23% (16.6-30.1)
Inhalant use (during lifetime)	11% (9.4-12.8)	37% (26.3-48.8)	38% (34.7-41.2)	21% (15.3-28.2)
Cocaine use (during past 30 days)	3% (2.6-3.8)	21% (13.0-33.2)	15% (10.3-21.3)	13% (9.3-17.7)
Heroin use (during lifetime)	2% (1.7-2.4)	28% (18.5-39.1)	11% (7.2-16.7)	10% (6.6-15.9)
Injected drugs (during lifetime)	2% (1.4-2.1)	20% (11.7-31.6)	10% (6.2-14.5)	11% (7.0-17.7)
Attempted suicide (during past 12 months)	5% (3.9-5.9)	32% (22.3-43.3)	31% (26.1-35.9)	18% (13.4-22.5)

*unweighted N.

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